

# The Charlotte JEWISH news

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An Affiliate of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

## New Parking Garage Dedicated Levine Family Honors the Memory of Barbara Levine

Are you finding parking at Shalom Park a little easier these days? More spaces, closer in, everything you like in a parking situation.

Thanks goes to the Levine family and the new Barbara L. Levine Parking Deck, opened and dedicated on June 7.

The ceremony took place under a full, hot sun which didn't dampen the spirits of the participants. Eric Sklut opened the ceremony to give the history of the decision to build the parking deck. Howard Levine spoke with gratitude to his parents for their generosity and the lessons he has garnered from them.

Lori Sklut read a moving speech about her mother, Barbara Levine, who passed away when Lori was just five. In attendance was Barbara's dear friend Geri Gertzman whom Lori spoke of



Amy Levine, Alfred Dawson, Blair Sklut, Haley Sklut, Mason Sklut, Lori Sklut, Eric Sklut, Julie Levine, Howard Levine, Leon Levine, Sandra Levine; front row: Sophie Levine, Evan Levine.

with fondness.

"A few days ago, I received a beautiful letter from Geri Gertzman who was a dear friend of Mom's during our Lansdowne years. I thought it would be nice to reflect on Geri's comments, and share some of them with you now.

"Dear Lori and Howard:

"Sometimes it seems like a

hundred years ago, and sometimes it seems like yesterday, when I wrote your Grandmother Faye a note promising to always remember her beautiful daughter, your Mother and my dear friend.

"In the note, I wrote "every spring – when I see the daffodils, I'll think of Barbara."

"Barbara always, from the moment we first met, reminded me of both spring and daffodils. Like a spring day, she was sunny, bright and refreshing. Like a daf-

fodil, she was sweet, pretty and unassuming.

"Then and now, when I see the daffodils in spring, I think of my lovely friend and my heart smiles.

"When I learned of the Barbara Leven Levine Parking Pavilion, I hoped to be a small part in honoring her memory, without being intrusive."



The new Barbara L. Levine Parking Pavillion.

"Geri went on to include a check which we will use to plant daffodils here, so when you see them in the spring, you will think of our mother and what she meant to us and to so many. Thank you Geri, for your kind letter and for your contribution for the daf-

fodils."

The ceremony concluded as the ribbon, held by the grandchildren of Leon and Sandra Levine, was cut with oversize engraved silver shears.

The three-deck parking lot is now open for parking. ☆

## Fourth Annual Schloss Summer Lecture at Temple Beth El

"African American and Jewish Relations in the Past and Present in the South and in the Future In Charlotte"

Dr. Ron Carter, President of Johnson C. Smith University

Harvey Gantt, Architect and Former Charlotte Mayor

Dr. David Goldfield, Robert Lee Bailey Prof. of History, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

August 14, 2009



Former Mayor Harvey Gantt

Join us for our 6 PM Summer Shabbat Service.

Stay for dinner at 7 PM.

7:30–8:30 PM Schloss Summer Lecture.

"In the great social movements in our country's history, Jewish and African Americans have stood shoulder to shoulder," then Presidential Candidate Obama remarked in June of 2008. "They took buses down south together. They marched together. They bled together. And Jewish Americans like Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner were willing to die alongside a black man — James Chaney — on behalf of

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## Sandra and Leon Levine Foundation Rescue LJCC Senior Program

### Community Can Help Oasis Make Up for Lost Funds

Among the many agencies losing funding due to the local cuts from United Way is our own Oasis Senior Enrichment Program at the Levine Jewish Community Center.

Sandra and Leon Levine and the Levine Family Foundation have given a \$50,000 gift that will help bridge the gap created by the cuts. This year's decrease in funding from the Charlotte's United Way had a significant impact on the Oasis program. The program, which provides meals, transportation, wellness and exercise activities, education and companionship to more than 300 seniors annually, was one of the hardest hit agencies in the Carolinas. In June, the United Way board announced it was cutting the Oasis funding by approximately \$84,000, representing a cut of almost 80%.

"We have relied on United Way funding for this important program for the past several years," explains LJCC CEO Philip Berman. "We are concerned that the loss of these dollars will seriously impact the programming landscape for our seniors." Eighty-four thousand dollars represents 50% of the Oasis program budget. "Leon and Sandra Levine understand the importance of this program for our growing senior population," Berman adds, "and they wanted to help the J maintain the curriculum while we figured out how to raise the additional necessary funds to sustain this vital program. For example, we offer a free resource center to seniors that provides information about housing, transportation,

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